

Application No. 10/634,041
Amendment dated 3/15/2005 responding to Office Action dated 12/01/2004

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Claims 2-9, 11-12, 14-24, and 26-28 are pending in the application; Claims 1, 10, 13, and 25 have previously been cancelled.

Please amend Claims 3, 8, 9, 11, 15, 19, and 20, and cancel claims 2 and 14, as indicated below.

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Claims in the application.

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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Previously Cancelled)

1 2. (Currently Cancelled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim 2 wherein the fork bottom comprises A
2 suspension for use with a vehicle which travels in a longitudinal direction, the suspension
3 comprising:

4 a lower fork tube;

5 an upper fork tube slidably coupled to the lower fork tube, wherein one of the fork tubes
6 is disposed partially within the other; and

7 a fork bottom having a substantially semi-cylindrical fork bottom body coupled to the
8 lower fork tube and having different stiffness in the longitudinal direction than in a lateral
9 direction generally perpendicular to the longitudinal direction;

10 wherein the longitudinal stiffness is greater than the lateral stiffness.

1 4. (Original) The suspension of claim 3 wherein the fork bottom further comprises:

2 means for adjusting a lateral stiffness of the fork bottom body.

1 5. (Original) The suspension of claim 4 wherein the means for adjusting comprises:

2 a tension cable having a lower end coupled to a lower end of the fork bottom body and an
3 upper end coupled to an upper end of the fork bottom body; and

4 the fork bottom body including a fulcrum over which the tension cable is stretched.

1 6. (Original) The suspension of claim 5 wherein the means for adjusting further comprises:

2 a threaded adjuster coupled to the tension cable for adjusting tension on the tension cable.

1 7. (Original) The suspension of claim 4 wherein the means for adjusting comprises:

2 a tension rod having a lower end coupled to a lower end of the fork bottom body and an
3 upper end coupled to an upper end of the fork bottom body, whereby at least one of tension and
4 pressure may be applied to the fork bottom by the tension rod.

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1 8. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim 2 3 further comprising:
2 a fulcrum coupled to the fork bottom; and
3 a tension cable coupled to the fork bottom and placed under tension against the fulcrum
4 to impart lateral pressure against the fork bottom.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim 2 3 wherein:
2 the lower fork tube is disposed within the upper fork tube.

1 10. (Previously Cancelled)

1 11. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim 2 3 wherein the vehicle comprises:
2 a two-wheeled vehicle.

1 12. (Original) The suspension of claim 11 wherein the two-wheeled vehicle comprises:
2 a motorcycle.

1 13. (Previously Cancelled)

1 14. (Currently Cancelled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) The two-wheeled vehicle of claim 14 A two-wheeled vehicle
2 comprising:

3 a frame including a steering tube;
4 an upper triple clamp rotatably coupled to the steering tube;
5 a lower triple clamp rotatably coupled to the steering tube;
6 a pair of sliding tube forks coupled to the triple clamps;
7 a wheel assembly including a wheel coupled to an axle; and
8 a pair of fork bottoms coupling the forks to the axle, wherein the fork bottoms have
9 different stiffness in a longitudinal direction of travel of the two-wheeled vehicle than in a lateral
10 direction substantially parallel to the axle;
11 wherein the stiffness in the longitudinal direction is greater than the stiffness in the lateral
12 direction;
13 wherein at least one of the fork bottoms comprises,
14 a fulcrum; and

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15 a tension cable stretched over the fulcrum, placing the fork bottom under
16 end-to-end tension such that the fulcrum provides side-to-side pressure on the fork
17 bottom to increase sideways stiffness of the fork bottom.

1 16. (Original) The two-wheeled vehicle of claim 15 wherein the at least one of the fork bottoms
2 further comprises:

3 an adjuster for changing tension on the tension cable to adjust the sideways stiffness of
4 the fork bottom.

1 17. (Original) The two-wheeled vehicle of claim 16 wherein:

2 both of the fork bottoms comprise a fulcrum, tension cable, and adjuster.

1 18. (Original) The two-wheeled vehicle of claim 17 wherein the two-wheeled vehicle comprises:
2 a motorcycle.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The two-wheeled vehicle of claim ~~14~~ 15 wherein:

2 upper ends of the fork bottoms extend upward beyond an uppermost point of the outer
3 diameter of the wheel ~~assembly~~.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The two-wheeled vehicle of claim ~~14~~ 15 wherein:

2 the fork bottoms are longer than inner sliding tubes of the forks.

1 21. (Original) A method of adjusting side-to-side flex of a two-wheeled vehicle suspension, the
2 suspension including a sliding tube fork coupled to a fork bottom, the method comprising:

3 adjusting end-to-end tension on a tension cable which is coupled to both ends of the fork
4 bottom and stretched over a fulcrum between the ends of the fork bottom;
5 whereby side-to-side pressure exerted by the tension cable on the fulcrum, and by the
6 fulcrum on the fork bottom, is adjusted.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein adjusting the tension on the tension cable is
2 accomplished by:

3 turning a threaded tension adjuster which couples one end of the tension cable to the fork
4 bottom.

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1 23. (Previously Amended) A fork bottom comprising:
2 a body having different longitudinal stiffness than lateral stiffness;
3 means at an upper end of the body for coupling to a fork tube;
4 means at a lower end of the body for coupling to an axle;
5 a tension cable;
6 means at the upper end of the body for coupling to an upper end of the tension cable;
7 means at the lower end of the body for coupling to a lower end of the tension cable; and
8 a fulcrum substantially in a middle of the body.

1 24. (Original) The fork bottom of claim 23 wherein:
2 the longitudinal stiffness is greater than the lateral stiffness.

1 25. (Previously Cancelled)

1 26. (Previously Amended) The fork bottom of claim 23 wherein the fulcrum comprises:
2 means for positioning the tension cable.

1 27. (Previously Amended) The fork bottom of claim 23 further comprising:
2 an adjuster coupled to the upper end of the tension cable and to the upper end of the
3 body, for adjusting tension on the tension cable.

1 28. (Original) The fork bottom of claim 23 further comprising:
2 a lower fork tube integrally formed with the body.